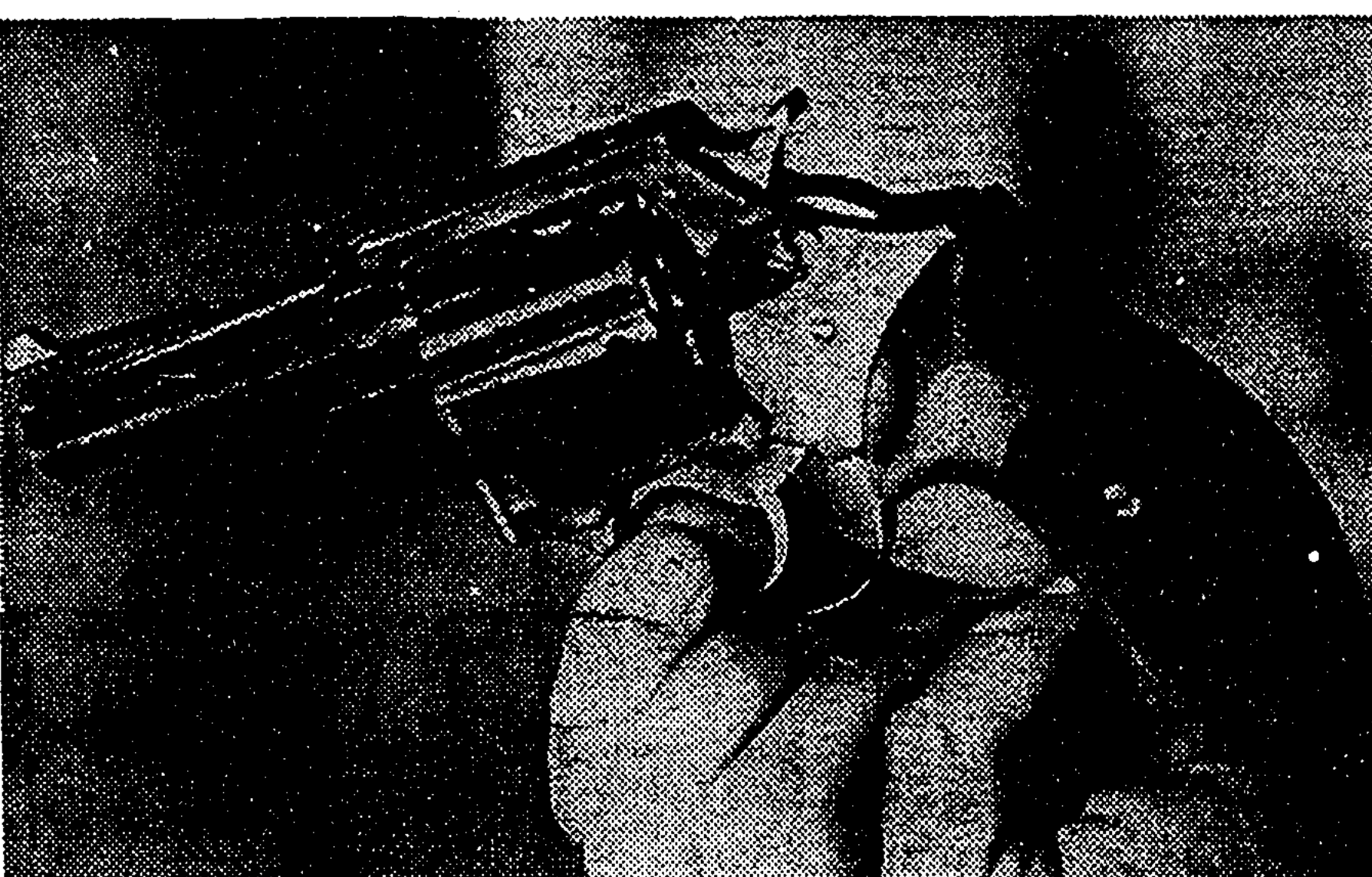


SUSPECT IN 'SON OF SAM' MURDERS ARRESTED IN YONKERS; POLICE SAY .44-CALIBER WEAPON IS RECOVERED



The New York Times/Paul Hosefros

Suspect in slayings, identified by police as David Berkowitz, being escorted into Police Headquarters this morning.



The New York Times/Larry Morris

Police officer holding .44-caliber gun police say was used by "Son of Sam."

Postal Worker Traced Through Car Believed Used in Getaways

By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

A 24-year-old postal employee said by the police to be the "Son of Sam," the .44-caliber killer who took the lives of six young people and wounded seven others in a year-long reign of terror in New York City, was taken into custody late last night in Yonkers, just north of the city.

The suspect was identified as David Berkowitz of 35 Pine Street in Yonkers.

He was said to have been traced through a car allegedly used in the getaways from eight attacks in the Bronx, Queens and, most recently, in Brooklyn.

When seized, according to the police, Mr. Berkowitz was advised of his rights by arresting officers and responded: "Well, you've got me."

The .44-caliber Charter Arms Bulldog revolver, which ballistics experts said had been used in all of the attacks, was recovered, the police said.

The suspect was rushed from Yonkers to New York City Police Headquarters after his arrest and authorities said he would be booked for the ambush murder of Stacy Moskowitz, 21, and the blinding of her date, Robert Violante, 20, in his latest alleged attack on July 31.

Motive Is Unclear

The police said early today that, although the suspect had made some admissions, the motive for the crimes remained unclear. The suspect was described by the police as a loner whose father, Nat, is retired and living in Miami and whose mother is deceased.

The police said the suspect was a graduate of Columbus High School in the Bronx, had attended the Bronx Community College for one year and had served with the Army in Korea.

Mayor Beame, during a 1:40 A.M. news conference in Police Headquarters in Lower Manhattan declared:

"I am very pleased to announce that the people of the City of New York can rest easy tonight because police have captured a man they believe to be the Son of Sam."

First Deputy Police Commissioner James Taylor earlier had said: "We have him."

Chief of Detectives John L. Keenan, at the headquarters news conference, said the suspect had been traced after detectives had looked into every summons given to cars parked in the vicinity of the last shooting, at Bay 14th Street and Shore Parkway in the Bath Beach section of Brooklyn.

Gun Found in Car

One ticket, for illegal parking at a fire hydrant, was given to a cream-colored Ford Galaxy sedan. The police traced the car, and yesterday found it parked in front of 35 Pine Street in Yonkers.

Detectives who found the car said they had looked inside and had seen the butt of a machine gun sticking out of a gunny sack. They said they had also found a letter with printing that resembled that on the two letters known to have been written by the killer, as well as a message later found in the suspect's apartment.

The written message contained the following passage:

"Because Craig is Craig, so must the streets be filled with crime (death) and huge drops of lead poured down upon her

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Suspect in 'Son of Sam' Murders Is Seized in Yonkers



The New York Times/Fred R. Conrad
Alleged "Son of Sam" suspect, identified by police as David Berkowitz, being brought into Police Headquarters early this morning.

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head until she was dead — Yet the cats still come out at night to mate and the sparrows still sing in the morning."

Jubilation greeted word of the suspect's apprehension at Police Headquarters and at the 109th Precinct in Queens, the headquarters of a 300-member task force that had mounted one of the largest — and most frustrating — manhunts in the city's history.

The reference to "Craig" was unclear. However, Craig Glassman, a Westchester County deputy sheriff was one of the 15 policemen from Yonkers, New York City and Westchester who aided in the suspect's arrest.

Mr. Glassman said last night that, as a former resident of the building where Mr. Berkowitz lives, he had been watching the man for some time, not as a "Son of Sam" suspect, but because he had received a number of threatening letters and believed Mr. Berkowitz had been sending them.

Glassman Passes On Name

However, the publication of the Police Department's latest and most detailed sketch of the suspect prompted Mr. Glassman to pass on Mr. Berkowitz's name to the city police. The police, in turn, had a record of a parking ticket issued to Mr. Berkowitz's car in the area of and at the time of the last shooting.

Armed with a search warrant, policemen from Yonkers, Westchester County and New York City surrounded the six-story apartment building at 35 Pine Street sometime after 10 P.M. But before they could enter, Mr. Berkowitz emerged from his apartment and was apprehended without a struggle.

Taken by unmarked car in a short motorcade of police vehicles to headquarters at 1 Police Plaza near City Hall in lower Manhattan, Mr. Berkowitz, his hands manacled behind him, smiled wanly as he was hustled by detectives through a crowd of reporters into a side entrance.

He was clad in a light blue shirt with white stripes, and wore blue jeans. He was about 5 feet 7 or 8 inches tall and appeared to be huskily built.

The suspect had dark curly hair and appeared to resemble the composite sketch the police had issued on Tuesday, along with a more precise description. The police said they had received more than 1,800 calls supplying tips and clues as a result of the new sketch and description.

Detectives who had worked on the case disclosed last night that a fingerprint and a palm print believed to be those of the killer had been in the possession of investigators for some time.

At least one fingerprint had been obtained from a letter sent last spring to Jimmy Breslin, the columnist for The Daily News, and a palm print had been obtained from a car in one of the killer's ambush shootings.

There was no word early this morning on whether these prints had been compared with those of the suspect seized last night.

However, various police officials, who are customarily circumspect in their characterizations of suspects, last night spoke with seeming confidence that the mysterious and elusive Son of Sam had at last been captured.

"There's no doubt," said Capt. Joseph Borelli, a member of the task force that has hunted the killer. "It's him."

In addition to the .44 caliber bulldog revolver found in Mr. Berkowitz's car, the police said a .45 caliber submachine gun was found in the car and another submachine gun in the apartment. The revolver was said to be loaded and lying next to the driver's seat.

The killer's random attacks have terrorized New Yorkers for more than a year, prompting women to change hairstyles and young people to avoid secluded trysting sites that had been the scenes of the shootings.